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# ADDRESS,

AT THE

FIRST STATED MEETING

OF THE

INDIANA COLONIZATION SOCIETY

DELIVERED AT INDIANAPOLIS, IN THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES,

BY THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, ON

THE 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1829.

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BY ISAAC BLACKFORD.

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## INDIANA COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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At the First Stated Meeting of the Society, at Indianapolis, on the Second Monday of December, 1811, JAMES BLACKFORD, one of the Vice-Presidents, having taken the Chair, delivered, conformably to his appointment, the following

### ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

It becomes my duty, in consequence of the appointment with which I have been honoured, to address to you some observations relative to the objects for which we have convened. A State Society has been recently organized here, auxiliary to the American Colonization Society, established at the City of Washington; and this is the day of our First Stated Meeting. I see an evidence of the importance of the occasion, in the attendance of this numerous and respectable audience. It is not only the subject of our country's welfare, which invites our attention; but it is the sacred cause of humanity also, that assembles us together—that cause which is fondly cherished in every virtuous bosom; and which never appeals in vain to a generous community.

The great object of our Parent Institution is to remove, with their consent, the people of colour who are now free, or shall hereafter become so, from the United States; and to Colonize them upon the western coast of Africa. The necessity of taking some measures to remove the free blacks from among us, has long been obvious to every reflecting man. The rights of those unfortunate people, and the increasing degeneracy of their morals, are pressing themselves more strongly, every day, upon the consideration of the public. It is very generally admitted, that the introduction of negroes into the New World, is the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen it. It is now more than three hundred years since the practice was commenced, by the Europeans, of forcing the unoffending inhabitants of Africa from their homes, and transporting them to the Western Colonies as slaves. The Portuguese led the way, as early as 1503, in this nefarious business. The Spaniards, French, Dutch, English, soon followed the example; and have been alike distinguished in their barbarous career. Some of the Colonists in America too, and even—I say it with reluctance—some of the citizens of the United States, deaf to the voice of mercy, have acted a conspicuous part in this tragic scene.

In consequence of the slave-trade, thus carried on by Europeans and Americans, the slave-population of the Columbian Archipelago exceeds, very far, the number of the whites. In Cuba, for example, there is said to be seven hundred and fifty-two thousand inhabitants; of whom, four hundred and sixty-five thousand are African slaves. The number of inhabitants in Jamaica, in 1815, was three hundred and sixty thousand; of whom, three hundred and fifteen thousand were negroes. As to the empire of Brazil, there were imported into one of its ports, during the ten last years, two hundred and sixty thousand slaves; and, within the last year alone, forty three thousand five hundred and fifty-five. It is to the same shameful traffic, that the United States are indebted for their black population. This consisted, in 1820, of one million

five hundred and thirty-eight thousand one hundred and eighteen slaves, and two hundred and thirty-three thousand five hundred and fifty-seven free blacks. I shall not trouble you, at this time, with any further remarks upon this subject. The reference now made to it, is merely to remind you of the origin, and the progress, of the black population in the Western World. The age in which it originated, has long since passed away; and the slave-trader of those times lies mouldering in the dust with the slaves which he imported. The fatal consequences, however, of the unhallowed act have never, for a moment, ceased to operate; but have been continually spreading far and wide, for the last three centuries, their baneful influence. The American Colonization Society, in undertaking to restore to their own country the blacks within the United States, thus originally introduced among us, who are now free, or shall in future become so, appeals for assistance to the liberality, to the patriotism, to the philanthropy of the American people.

As the history of that Society may be somewhat new to a part of my audience, a brief statement of some of the leading circumstances connected with its history, may, perhaps, not be unacceptable. In looking around for the source whence it originated, our attention cannot but be directed to the British Colony of Sierra Leone. It was there, when the eloquence of Wilberforce, and Fox, and Pitt, had failed to arouse the British Senate against the slave-trade, that individual benevolence determined to exert her humble efforts. That Colony, on the western coast of Africa, was settled in 1791, with the few blacks then in England, and about one thousand from Nova-Scotia. These people, living there in peace and independence, and impeding when in their power the progress of the slave-trade, necessarily attracted the attention of the American philanthropist. The Legislature of Virginia accordingly proposed, more than twenty years ago, the Colonization in Africa of our free people of colour. There is a letter of Mr. Jefferson's on the subject dated in 1811; and another from Dr. Finley, of New-Jersey, in 1814. In the early part of 1816, about thirty free blacks were induced to sail from Boston, with Paul Cuffee, in order to unite their fortunes with their brethren at Sierra Leone. The pilgrims received there the hand of friendship, and hospitality welcomed them to her smiling shores. In December, 1816, Dr. Finley visited Washington City, and introduced his favourite subject of Colonization. A few distinguished gentlemen immediately united with him; and, in the latter part of the month, they organized the present American Colonization Society. The First Annual Meeting was held at Washington, on the first of January, 1818. In the spring following, its Agents, Messrs. Mills and Burgess, explored the western coast of Africa, preparatory to the contemplated settlement. It happened, fortunately for the Society, that, in 1819, the American Congress, in its measures for the prohibition of the slave-trade, authorized the President to cause the Africans, who should be re-captured by our cruisers from the slave-ships and brought into the United States, to be restored to their native country; and authorized him also to establish an Agency, on the coast of Africa, for their reception. In executing this law, the President, Mr. Monroe, acted in concert with the Society, and gave to its infant exertions his liberal support.

In 1820, the first ship, the *Elizabeth*, sailed in this noble cause, for the western coast of Africa. Beside two Agents on the part of the government, and one for the Society, this vessel carried with her about eighty free people of colour, to commence an establishment at the expense of the United States; which was to be not only the government Agency, under the act of Congress, but the Asylum of freedom, under the direction of the Society. The place of their temporary settlement, the island of Sherbro, proved to be unhealthy. The Agents and some of the Colonists died: the others, in the spring of 1821,

removed to Sierra Leone, not very far distant. In December of that year, an Agent of the Society, with a naval officer of the United States, succeeded in purchasing from the natives, for about three hundred dollars, the Montserrado territory, situated on the western coast of Africa, and now known by the appropriate name of Liberia. Early in 1822, the Colonists, who had previously gone to Sierra Leone, took possession of their newly-acquired territory. The progress of their improvements, however, soon alarmed the ignorant, superstitious natives; and war, in the autumn following, was the consequence. This contest, however severe for the time, was neither long nor doubtful. The few settlers—their number being only about thirty—exhibited upon this occasion, under their gallant leader, Mr. Ashmun, the skill and valour of veteran soldiers. They were fighting for a spot on which they might erect the standard of liberty—they could not but be brave! A wild, disorderly crowd, of from six hundred to nine hundred assailants, were, accordingly, soon put to flight. This decisive victory silenced, forever, all opposition. The terrified natives became convinced that their new neighbours were invincible. From that time, the Colony dates its prosperity. Other emigrants soon began to arrive; and, in 1823, their number had increased to one hundred and forty. At the Annual Meeting of the Society, in 1824, the name of Liberia was adopted for the Colonial territory; and, as a tribute of respect to its early and distinguished friend, the name of Monrovia was given to the town. A regular system of government also, formed by the most competent men, was, during the same year, adopted for the Colony; and has ever since continued in successful operation. It consists of a constitution, and a digest of laws. The principal officers are an Agent, appointed by the Board of Managers; together with a Vice-Agent, two Counsellors, a Sheriff, Register, and Treasurer, elected by the freeholders within the Colony. There are also Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Agent. The constitution secures to the Colony, among other things, the common law of England; the usages of the English and American courts; and the trial by jury.

Nine years have now passed away, since the passengers of the *Elimbeth* first landed in Africa. No extraordinary difficulty has occurred, excepting the sickness in 1821, on the island of Sherbro, and the war of 1822, to impede the advance of the Colony. Its prosperity, indeed, for the seven last years, has few examples in the eventful history of Colonial settlements. Large acquisitions of territory have been made, within the three or four last years. In 1827, there were eight Stations, within one hundred and forty miles, under the government of the Colony; and, in 1828, there were fourteen hundred inhabitants. There are, at present, several fortifications, churches, school-houses, and other public buildings. Some of these have been erected by the United States, for the purposes of their Agency; the others by the Society. The want of sufficient education among the Colonists generally, will probably be found, for awhile, one of their most serious difficulties in conducting the operations of their government. Nothing can secure perpetuity to their liberties, but the diffusion among them of useful knowledge. Of this great truth they appear to be conscious. There are now fourteen hundred dollars paid at the Colony for the support of education; three hundred of which are paid by the Society—the residue by the voluntary contribution of the Colonists themselves. Their instructors, however, being blacks, are only able, as yet, to teach the common branches of education. Their preachers, too, being of the same class, have not sufficient acquirements to render them extensively and permanently useful. But these inconveniences, it is hoped, will soon be past. Associations are already forming in the United States, to secure to these Colonists the best opportunities of education; and Missions—

ry Societies, both here and in Europe, are already sending to them their Messengers of peace.

The progress in agriculture and commerce, made by these blacks within the few years of their Colonial existence, displays an industry, an enterprise, and a capacity, of which they may be proud. It not only shows us the height, to which they may be destined to rise; but that also from which, amid the revolutions of the world, they have probably fallen. Many of them, from their attention to business, are already worth several thousand dollars. They have, at their own ports, built and fitted out several small vessels, for the purposes of commerce. During the last year, they had four schooners sailing under the Liberian flag, which were engaged in trading with the natives on the coast, and with the European settlements at Sierra Leone, the Cape of Good Hope, and other places. The country produces, in abundance, Indian corn, Rice, Coffee, Cotton, Indigo, Sugar Cane; Limes, Oranges, Pine Apples, Grapes; Sweet Potatoes, Yams, Peas, Beans, Pumpkins, Cucumbers. Every account from there is of a favourable character. The Annual Reports of the Board of Managers; the representations of the Colonial Agents; the circular address of the Colonists themselves, in 1827, to the free people of colour in the United States; the testimony of gentlemen, unconnected with the Society, who have recently visited the Colony—that of Captain Nicholson of the United States' navy among others; the increase of the population since 1823, from one hundred and forty, to fifteen hundred inhabitants; the fact, too, that, within the last year, the Colonists themselves exported seventy thousand dollars' worth of produce; all unite in proving the prosperity of the Colony. The first attempt of Great Britain, to plant her Colonies in America, was not so successful. The settlement of Virginia in 1607, after the lapse of seventeen years, an emigration to it of nine thousand persons, and an expenditure of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, scarcely contained two thousand inhabitants. The page which shall record the events of the first years of Liberia, will present to the world a very different picture from that which describes the early sacrifices and sufferings of our ancestors in America.

It was, at first, a great question, whether the free blacks would be generally willing to remove to Africa. That question, it is believed, is now settled in the affirmative. A circumstance, strikingly illustrative of their disposition to emigrate, occurred in the early history of the Colony. A few days previously to the sailing of the *Oswego*, in 1823, the news arrived of the hostility of the natives, and of the war they had waged against the Colonists. At that time, sixty-one negroes were just assembled to embark. The alarming news did not, for a moment, shake the resolution of one of them. Compared with their degradation here, whether bond or free,—the perils of the ocean, the difficulties of settling on a distant, hostile coast, had to them no terrors. They were going to the native home of the black man; and to breathe the air of freedom. The Society has never had any difficulty in procuring emigrants. The number of applications for an opportunity to go, is increasing every year. The Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Managers, made in January last, states, that there were then nearly six hundred free persons of colour, seeking a passage to Liberia; and that the owners of more than two hundred slaves, had, during the previous year, offered to liberate them, provided the Society could send them to the Colony.

The great difficulty, and indeed the only one, experienced at this time by the Society, is, that it cannot command the funds necessary for the passage of the applicants. The expense of transportation across the Atlantic is great—that of taking over each individual being about twenty dollars. Without very considerable resources, but little can at last be done. The So-

ciety, that it may be enabled to pursue its object in a degree somewhat commensurate to its importance—having shown what may be accomplished—is now applying for assistance, with great solicitude, to the citizens of the different States. Public opinion is every where uniting in its favour. Virginia, the State most interested, is taking the lead. Judge Washington, of that State, has always been the President. There are there, more than thirty Auxiliary Societies, beside the State Institution. Of the latter, the Chief Justice of the United States is the President; and Mr. Madison and Mr. Monroe are Vice-Presidents. Beside more than one hundred Auxiliary Societies, in various parts of the Union, there were, at the commencement of this year, State Institutions in eleven of the States. Ours, just commencing, is now convened for the purpose, among others, of taking a brief view of the proceedings of the Parent Society; and of presenting to the patriotic, the humane, and the generous, its claims for their support.

It is anxiously hoped that the Liberian Colony, with such others as its benevolent founders shall establish on the African coast, may furnish considerable aid in the great effort now making, by the European and American governments, for the suppression of the slave-trade. To that barbarous traffic, I have already had occasion to advert. Its prosecution for the last three hundred years, forms the deepest and the blackest stain in the character of civilized nations. It was nearly twenty years after the introduction of the subject into the British Parliament, before her distinguished statesmen could succeed against it. In 1807, however, that nation enacted a law for its abolition. In recording this brilliant Era in the English annals, well may her historian boast of the magnanimous example, which his country had thus set to the world. The constitution of the United States prohibited Congress from preventing the importation of slaves, previously to 1808. On the first of January in that year, an act of Congress against it took effect. The United States and Great Britain, in the treaty of peace ratified in 1815, pledged their exertions for the suppression of this trade in slaves; and, in the same year, the European Powers, at the Congress of Vienna, did the same. France, Spain, Austria, Portugal, and other nations, have taken measures against it. In 1820, the United States declared it to be piracy; and England, in 1824, followed the example.

All these proceedings, however, have not accomplished the object. The slave-trade has been carried on, during the present year, to as great an extent, and under circumstances as aggravated, as it had ever been before. It is so profitable a business, that, as yet, it has put at defiance all opposition. There is no risk, not even that of life, that the slave-trader hesitates to undertake for the accomplishment of his purpose. There is no crime, not even that of murder, that he does not cheerfully commit. At the shrine of Avarice, he sacrifices every feeling, and every principle, which distinguishes the character of man from the nature of a brute. He tears the unoffending African from his country; from his home; from his friends; from his family—the children from their parents—even the mother from her infant babe. He stows them away in the hold of his ship, and chains them there. Those, unfortunately surviving the dreary passage, he lands in the West Indies, in Brazil, in some of our own States; and drives them to the markets of human flesh. There, sold to the highest bidder, they linger out their days in slavery. Where is the man, in contemplating our own conduct in this business, that does not exclaim in the language of Mr. Jefferson, “I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just!” To assist in putting a check to the horrid traffic, which is continually producing effects like these, is, as I have observed, one of the objects of the Colonization Society. The slave-traders, it is well known, obtain their cargoes almost entirely from the west-

on coast of Africa. Every Colony, therefore, of civilized inhabitants, established on that coast, and resolved to stop this trade to the extent of its means, will, at all events, put an end to it for a considerable distance. The Colonies of Sierra Leone, and of Liberia, both produce this effect within their respective vicinities. They furnish, also, many conveniences to the national armed ships, sent out by their respective governments against the slave-vessels on the coast; and, united with the government Agencies, are places of protection, whither the re-captured Africans may be sent, and where they will always find a home. There were at Sierra Leone, in 1821, at least ten thousand blacks, who had been re-captured from the slave-ships by the British cruisers, and liberated; and Liberia can already boast of a respectable number, indebted for their liberty to the American flag.

The Colonies, established on that coast, will produce another salutary effect against the slave-trade. The Africans there, and in the interior, are in a rude, uncultivated state. They have neither learning nor religion among them. The consequence is, that the petty, deluded princes of the country, enticed by the slave-trader with high rewards, are continually waging war against each other, for the base purpose of making prisoners to be sold as slaves. This they could not be prevailed upon to do, were they a civilized people. In making them so, this Colonization plan must have considerable influence. With the advantages the Colonies may possess at the commencement, and the opportunities for improvement they will enjoy under the guardianship of their founders, they will be so many luminaries in the deserts of a benighted land. The Colonists, conspicuous for their religion and knowledge, for their industry and enterprise, for their love of freedom and abhorrence of the slave-trade, will spread abroad over that ill-fated country, the invaluable blessings which they themselves enjoy. In doing this, they must give a vital stab to the progress of the slave-trade; and, on this principle alone, had they no other claims, they would merit our support. That trade is a Hydra, which nothing but Herculean labour can destroy. Every measure within the compass of human power, calculated to impede its progress, should and must be brought to bear against it.

Independently, however, of all considerations as to the slave-trade—supposing it had no existence—would not a rational plan for introducing the arts and sciences of civilized life, and the divine religion of the Saviour of the world, into the unenlightened and pagan regions of Africa, be an object highly deserving the attention of every good man? The whole human species belong to the same family. Inhabiting nearly every country on the globe—accommodated to every climate, from the equator to Greenland in the north, and to Terra del Fuego in the south—living where spirits of wine boil with the heat, and where mercury freezes with the cold—they possess one common nature; have descended from the same parents; are supported through life, and will be rewarded or punished after death, by the same Almighty power that called them into existence. Some of them, possibly, may be more happily situated than ourselves; but that number is, indeed, comparatively small. We have a temperate climate and a fruitful soil. We live under a government free as the air we breathe; and are blessed with a religion pure as the Spirit of God. But far, very far different, is the unhappy situation of the greater part of the human family. The present occasion, however, does not permit me to take the slightest view of their various fortunes; of the tyrannical oppression of the governments, under which many of them groan; or of the midnight darkness of the idolatrous worship, into which many of them have fallen. Nor is it necessary that I should now stop to present you with the imperfect accounts, given to us by travellers, of the unlettered population of that extensive continent, on which the Society has established its Colo-



ny. I must be permitted, however, to remind you, that if, among all the hapless descendants of our common father, there are any people who have a special claim upon our generous sympathies, and our charitable assistance, that people are the unfortunate blacks of Africa. I do not say that there may not be others equally unfortunate. But they are the only people who have reason to complain of the injustice of our country—they are the only people whose claims, in the language of a distinguished orator, do not burst from around them, the moment they touch the soil of freedom.

There is every reason to believe, that the establishment of our Colonies in Africa, will have a beneficial influence on her degenerate sons. It is stated by Bishop White, that the native chiefs have already sent into Liberia more than a hundred of their children to be educated. This single fact is an evidence, that the Colonies may prove to be fountains, from which the streams of civilization may flow through deserts, and fertilize regions, which even the enterprize of a Park, a Denham, or a Clapperton, has not been able to explore. They may prove to be such a nursery of learning and piety for the neighbouring States, as the far-famed Icolmkill was once, for the nations which surrounded it.

But the views of the Society, in planting these Colonies, are not limited to the abolition of the slave-trade, or the diffusing of knowledge in a foreign land. It has other objects to accomplish, intimately connected with the prosperity of our country, and deeply affecting the future destiny of its black population. The first cargo of coloured people, landed on our soil, was brought over by a Dutch ship from the coast of Guinea, near where Liberia is situated, and sold in Virginia, about two hundred years ago. Happy had it been for our country, had she then, and forever after, refused to permit any such Pandora to approach her shores. We have been seduced, however, by the gilded prospects of wealth, of ease, and luxury, presented to our view by the labour of slaves: and have admitted into our bosom, an extensive black population, whose existence here is a reproach to a nation, boasting of its freedom; and whose rapid increase is everywhere contemplated with serious alarm. In the extensive country north-west of the Ohio, there are no slaves; their introduction having been prohibited by the ordinance for its early government. In the northern and most of the middle States, they have been generally liberated. Their number there, comparatively speaking, was always small. This may be principally attributed to the fact, that slave-labour is not generally profitable in those States. The productions of the South, and the adaptation of the African constitution to that climate, have made the slaves apparently profitable there. Hence, nearly all the blacks of our country are resident within a few southern States. Virginia alone, in 1820, contained four hundred and sixty-two thousand.

The whole number of these people, at present, in the Union, is estimated at two millions; and their annual increase, at fifty-two thousand. Their increase, where they now principally are, and must continue to be while among us, is more rapid than that of the whites. It is calculated that their number, fifty years hence, will be twelve millions. Many of you, to whom I am now speaking, may live to see that time. This whole black population, too, must be confined to a few States; and ten millions of the number will be absolute slaves. Where is the reflecting man, who can look forward, with indifference, to a state of things like this! These people will probably continue, in consequence of their degraded situation, what they now are generally—a low, ignorant, debased multitude. The baneful influence of an overwhelming population of this description, upon the habits and manners of the community within which they may live, is incalculable. And should they ever, when time shall have thus increased their numbers, fly to arms to re-



and their wrongs, and to be the rulers in their turn, who among us can predict the consequences? This much is certain: If they continue ignorant, their demoralizing influence on the white population, must keep pace with the increase of their numbers.—If they become enlightened, they will not long continue slaves.

It were madness to shut our eyes to these facts and conclusions. This rapid increase of the blacks is as certain as the progress of time. The fatal consequences of that increase, if it be not checked, are equally so. Something must be done. The American Colonization Society proposes a remedy—the removal to Africa of the blacks who are free, or shall hereafter become so, with their consent. The number of those now free is large; and their annual increase is estimated at six thousand. They are a burthen, generally, wherever they are. The slave-holding States do not wish their residence within them. The non-slave-holding States would prefer to be without them. Virginia prohibits the emancipation of slaves, except upon the condition of their removal within a certain time. Ohio has taken the strongest measures, to exclude them from her soil. The solicitude throughout the United States is universal, that we should be relieved from the free blacks. The Society, if sufficiently encouraged, can and will render this great benefit to our country. It will do more. It will greatly increase the disposition of those having slaves, to emancipate them. We know that their owners are liberating them every year. This they will do far more extensively, when the spirit of christianity shall be more widely diffused, and when the free blacks shall have a comfortable home. Hundreds, anxiously wishing to release their slaves from bondage, are deterred from indulging the noble feeling, lest, when free, they should be less respectable than they were when slaves. The Liberian Colony removes this apprehension; and presents to the generous owner, one of the finest opportunities for his benevolence, that this world can furnish. Besides, thousands of slaves, when the advantages of their removal shall be better understood, and the spirit of emigration shall be more generally extended, will, by their own extra-exertions, and by the assistance of their friends, become enabled to purchase their freedom, that they may remove to the Colonies.

The Society, from considerations like these, whilst it disclaims the remotest idea of ever disturbing the right of property in slaves, conceives it to be possible that the time may arrive, when, with the approbation of their owners, they shall all be at liberty; and, with those already free, be removed, with their own consent, to the land of their ancestors. The patriot contemplates, with delight, this golden age. It will crown his country's fame. The Declaration of her Independence is, "That all men are created equal." This noble principle she will have reduced to practice, when, within her borders, all men shall be free.

There is one other effect to be produced by the operations of the Colonization Society, to which I must ask your attention before I conclude. It is the benefit that will be conferred on those free blacks of our country, who shall be sent to Africa. They are of no service here to the community, nor to themselves. Their situation may be compared to that of the fabled sufferer, who, surrounded by water and the most delicious fruit, is never permitted to partake of either. They live in a country, the favourite abode of liberty, without the enjoyment of her gifts. It is the privilege and the pride of an American citizen, to take a part in arranging, establishing, and improving the forms of his government. He may aspire to its highest office, or to a seat in its Legislative Hall. It is he who exercises the right of suffrage—who is one of the peers for the trial of his fellow-men—who defends by his valour, on the land and on the ocean, his country's rights. To all of these, the black

man is a stranger. Give him his freedom: Give him, if you please, wealth, and wisdom, and valour, and virtue: Let him, like the late Moorish prince, be the son of a king: What will these avail him? Will they give him one of those political rights? Will he be received by the white man, as an equal, within the domestic circle; or even within the temple of his God? He has no liberty. He never can, in all probability, have any in this country. The negroes have been too long our subject slaves,—they are generally, here, and always have been, too debased—to be received as our equals. Our prejudice against them, however unjust it may be, must continue. It is as fixed and unchangeable as the peculiarity of their hair, or the blackness of their complexion.

They are capable, however, it is believed, to occupy, under different circumstances, a very different station in the world. It is true, when we compare them here, with the society around them, their inferiority is obvious. Their minds are seldom, if ever, roused into action. Chained down to grovelling occupations and low company, they have no objects of ambition, or of interest, to excite them to exertion. They are excluded from those elevated pursuits in business, and those theatres of intellectual display, where the competition for wealth, and for fame, calls forth powers of the mind, which the actors themselves had not been conscious that they possessed. These things considered, it is unfair to conclude from the situation of the blacks in this country, that their minds, by nature, are radically different from ours. They have hearts like other people, to sympathize with their friends in misfortune, and to rejoice with them in their prosperity. "We find among them," says Mr. Jefferson, "numerous instances of the most rigid integrity, and as many as among their better instructed masters, of benevolence, gratitude, and unshaken fidelity." It were easy to introduce a variety of facts, confirming this observation. I might go further, and point out to you, among those people, some truly pious members in the Christian church.

If we go into Africa, the land of the black man, for his character, we there find, in comparison with the United States or with Europe, an uncivilized country. It was not, however, always so. At least, we know that one part of Africa was the cradle of the arts and sciences—the place whence the seeds of civilization were first carried into Europe. We know, too, that another part of it could once boast of a Republic, which contended for many years, with Rome herself, for the empire of the world. But the glory of that country, whatever it may have been, has, like that of many others, long since disappeared; and the inhabitants of its interior have remained, for ages, almost unnoticed and unknown. The travels of Park have given us some information respecting them; and those of Denham and Clapperton much more. The last Journal of Clapperton, who died near Soccatoo, in 1827, informs us, that, wherever he travelled, he found the blacks generally numerous. Ignorant and idolatrous, it is true; but frequently disposed to be hospitable and kind. He represents their country, in many places, smiling with fields of corn and cotton; and some of their cities, with from twenty thousand to thirty thousand inhabitants, flourishing amid the crowd and bustle, the activity and enterprize of commerce.

In viewing the African character, therefore, as it appears in the United States or in Africa, it is evident that our free blacks, to whose degraded state I have referred, are capable of becoming respectable. If any further evidence of this fact be necessary, permit me to direct your attention to the neighbouring Republic of Hayti. The negroes there have not only, by their valour, established an independent government; but have also, by their prudence, conducted it for many years in prosperity and peace. Every doubt, previously entertained, as to the abilities of the Africans for self-government,

and for occupying a respectable station within the family of nations, is, by the eventual history of that flourishing Republic, put to rest forever.

The degradation of the free blacks, resident within our country, is their misfortune, not their fault. It becomes us, as a civilized and christian community, to unite in every rational plan proposed for their benefit; not interfering with the rights of others. That of the American Colonization Society—to remove them, with their consent, to their own country—is such a one. They will there commence a new life. They will there enjoy not merely the shadow, but the substance of freedom. The excellence of this plan has been tested by experience. Hundreds, who were outcasts of society here, are, at this time, worthy and independent citizens of Liberia.

I have now endeavoured to state some of the most prominent facts, connected with the origin and progress of our Parent Institution; and to enumerate some of the benefits which it is calculated to produce. The subject, I am aware, has not, as yet, attracted among us much public attention; and, perhaps, it may not be so interesting to you as I could wish. This consideration admonishes me, that I may have already extended too far these imperfect observations. The polite attention, however, with which I have been honoured, during this lengthened address, flatters me with the hope that there are many around me, whose feelings are engaged in favour of the cause which has assembled us together. All of you, I am confident, wish for the abolition of the slave-trade; and for the diffusion of knowledge and religion through the benighted regions of Africa. You wish to see our beloved country freed from a people, whose degraded situation here can only impede her prosperity and tarnish her fame. You wish, also, to see that unfortunate people happily restored, with the approbation of all parties, to the land which is consecrated by the graves of their fathers. Permit me, then, to invite you all to cheer, by your friendship and support, the benevolent and patriotic exertions of a Society, established for the promotion of objects so great and so glorious as these.

## RESOLUTIONS,

*Introduced by W. W. Wick, James Morrison, and Stephen C. Stevens, Esqrs. and by Dr. Isaac Cox, were adopted, approving of the objects of the Parent Institution.*

A Resolution, introduced by James Rariden, Esq., was adopted, presenting the thanks of the Society to the Chairman, and requesting a copy of his Address for publication.

The Society was informed, that Auxiliary Institutions had been organized at Richmond, Connersville, Brookville, Madison, and Aurora.

The officers for the ensuing year are, The Hon. JESSE L. HOLMAN, *President*; The Hon. JAMES SCOTT, ISAAC BLACKFORD, and MR. EZEKIEL SHARPE, *Vice-Presidents*; JAMES RARIDEN, JAMES MORRISON, SAMUEL HALL, CALVIN FLETCHER, and SAMUEL MERRILL, *Esqrs. Managers*. Dr. ISAAC COX, *Treasurer*. JAMES M. RAY, *Esq. Secretary*.

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**NOTE.**—It is recommended that the Societies, organized in the different counties, be Auxiliaries to the State Society. The State Society appoints delegates, some of the members of Congress, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parent Institution at Washington. The county Societies should appoint each a delegate, to attend the Annual Meeting of the State Institution. The Parent Society publishes annually a statement of its proceedings, with a particular account of its receipts and expenditures.

A monthly journal, entitled "The African Repository and Colonial Journal," is published at Washington City; the publication and profits of which are devoted to the cause of the Society. Price, 2 dollars per year. Application for it is made to J. C. Dunn, Georgetown, District of Columbia.

The Annual Meeting of the Indiana Colonization Society is held at Indianapolis, on the second Monday in December. Notices of the organization of Auxiliary Societies, &c. to be made to the Secretary of the State Society, and remittances to the Treasurer—both resident at Indianapolis.

### *Form of a Constitution for a Society, auxiliary to the State Society.*

- 1st. The Society shall be called ———, and shall be auxiliary to the Indiana Colonization Society.
- 2d. The object to which it shall be exclusively devoted, shall be to aid the Parent Institution at Washington, in the Colonization of the free people of colour of the United States, on the coast of Africa—and to do this not only by the contribution of money, but by the exertion of its influence to promote the formation of other Societies.
- 3d. An annual subscription of ——— shall constitute an individual a member of this Society; and the payment, at any one time, of ——— a member for life.

- 4th. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, and—  
Managers; Secretary and Treasurer; to be elected annually by the Society.
- 5th. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Managers.
- 6th. The Board of Managers shall meet to transact the business of the Society
- 7th. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Society, as well as take charge of its funds, and hold them subject to an order of the Board of Managers.
- 8th. The Secretary of the Society, shall conduct the correspondence, under the direction of the Board of Managers, both with the Parent Institution and other Societies.